

Specification

STRADDLING TYPE OF VEHICLE

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to a straddling type of vehicle such as the motorcycle having a fuel tank.

[Background Art]

The straddling type of vehicle such as a motorcycle includes one provided with a fuel tank with a fuel pump at the inside bottom of the tank to suck fuel from around the bottom (for example, JP-A-2000-7274).

The constitution of attaching this fuel pump is as follows: A fuel pump is attached to a cup opening upward. The fuel suction filter of the fuel pump is placed in the cup. An opening of a diameter smaller than the inside diameter of the cup is made at the bottom of the fuel tank. The main portion of the fuel tank is inserted through the opening into the tank and the cup is secured to the fuel tank. In this way, the fuel in the fuel tank can be sucked out with the fuel pump without being affected with the change in the fuel surface level due to acceleration, deceleration, and attitude of the vehicle when the remaining amount in the fuel tank becomes small.

[Disclosure of the Invention]

With the conventional method of attaching the fuel pump, because the fuel pump is placed in the fuel tank with the pump axis directed vertically, the pump becomes high. Therefore, the shaping of the tank ceiling is undesirably restricted. With the pump axis directed vertically, when fuel moves back and forth relative to the vehicle, effect of restricting the fuel motion is small. In some cases, fuel cannot be sucked with the fuel pump. Besides, the constitution of attaching at the fuel tank bottom through the opening is complicated. In addition to that, the cup projects out of the fuel tank bottom and sometimes stands in the way of attaching

the fuel tank and routing hoses or the like.

This invention has been made in view of the above situation. Therefore, the object of this invention is to provide a straddling type of vehicle that makes it possible to securely suck out fuel without being affected with changes in the fuel surface level due to acceleration, deceleration, and attitude of the vehicle, to simplify attachment constitution of the fuel pump, to facilitate attachment work of the fuel tank and routing work of hoses and the like, without causing the attaching portion to project out of the fuel tank.

To solve the above problem and accomplish the object, this invention is constituted as described below.

The first straddling type of vehicle according to the invention is a straddling type of vehicle having a fuel tank with a built-in fuel pump, in which the fuel pump is placed in the fuel tank with its pump axis directed nearly in the vehicle width direction.

With the first straddling type of vehicle according to the invention, as the fuel pump is placed in the fuel tank with the pump axis directed nearly in the vehicle width direction, it is possible to lower the height of the fuel pump and place the fuel pump inside the fuel tank so that the shaping of the fuel tank ceiling is not affected. Besides, in case fuel moves back and forth as the vehicle accelerates or decelerates, the fuel pump with its axis in longitudinal direction has little effect of restricting the fuel motion. However, with the pump axis nearly in the vehicle width direction, the pump itself has the function of restricting the fuel motion, and fuel can be securely sucked with the fuel pump.

Preferably, the fuel tank is constituted that straddles the vehicle body frame in the vehicle width direction, the vehicle body frame extends obliquely rear downward to be lower toward the rear, and the fuel pump is placed in the rear half of the fuel tank interior.

With the above constitution, because the fuel tank straddles the vehicle body frame in the vehicle width direction, the vehicle body frame extends obliquely rear downward to be lower toward the rear, and the fuel pump is placed within the rear half of the fuel tank interior, fuel is securely sucked with the fuel pump even if

remaining amount in the fuel tank is small.

The second straddling type of vehicle according to the invention is a straddling type of vehicle having a fuel tank straddling the vehicle body frame in the vehicle width direction, with the fuel tank having a built-in fuel pump, in which a nearly horizontal surface portion is formed on the fuel tank bottom and the fuel pump is placed on the nearly horizontal surface portion with the pump axis directed nearly horizontally.

With the second straddling type of vehicle according to the invention, as the nearly horizontal surface portion is formed on the fuel tank bottom and the fuel pump is placed on the nearly horizontal surface portion with the pump axis directed nearly horizontally, it is possible to lower the height of the fuel pump and place the fuel pump inside the fuel tank so that the shaping of the fuel tank ceiling is not affected. Besides, when a pump attachment opening is to be made in the fuel tank bottom wall, the opening can be punched easily in the die stroke direction when press forming the bottom wall, so that manufacture of the tank bottom wall is facilitated.

Preferably, the vehicle body frame is constituted that extends obliquely rear downward to be lower toward the rear, and the fuel pump is placed in the rear half of the fuel tank interior.

With the above constitution, the vehicle body frame extends obliquely rear downward to be lower toward the rear, and the fuel pump is placed within the rear half of the fuel tank, and fuel is sucked securely with the fuel pump even when remaining amount is small in the fuel tank.

Preferably, the fuel tank is constituted that has a tunnel-like recess section straddling the vehicle body frame, with the tunnel-like recess section formed only in the front half of the fuel tank interior, and the fuel pump is placed behind the tunnel-like recess section.

With the above constitution, because the tunnel-like recess section is formed only in the front half of the fuel tank interior to straddle the vehicle body frame and the fuel pump is placed behind the tunnel-like recess, fuel is sucked out securely with the fuel pump even when remaining amount is small in the fuel tank.

A preferable constitution may be that the fuel pump is placed in the fuel tank with the pump axis directed nearly in the vehicle width direction.

With the above constitution, when fuel moves back and forth relative to the vehicle as the vehicle accelerates or decelerates, the fuel pump with its axis placed in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle has little effect of restricting the fuel motion. However, the fuel pump itself with its axis placed in the vehicle width direction has the function of restricting the fuel motion, so that fuel is sucked out securely with the fuel pump.

A more preferable straddling type of vehicle according to the first and second invention may be constituted that the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank is made small to the limit of permitting the passage of the fuel pump.

With the above constitution, sealing property is improved by downsizing the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank.

A more preferable straddling type of vehicle according to the first and second invention may be constituted that the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank is made small to the limit of permitting the passage of the fuel pump and that the pump attaching opening is made in the shape of an elongate hole.

The above constitution, with the small pump attaching opening of the fuel tank, makes it possible to improve sealing property. At the same time, making the pump attaching opening in the shape of elongate hole facilitates insertion of the fuel pump elongate in the direction of the pump axis.

A more preferable straddling type of vehicle according to the first and second invention may be constituted that the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank is made small to the limit of permitting the passage of the fuel pump and that the attaching portion of the fuel pump secured to the pump attaching opening is made small to the limit of permitting closure of the pump attaching opening.

With the above constitution, sealing property is improved by downsizing the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank. At the same time, downsizing the fuel pump attaching portion makes it possible to reduce the area to be set aside for placing the fuel pump in

the fuel tank. In particular, the straddling type of vehicle according to the second invention makes it possible to reduce the area of the nearly horizontal surface portion formed on the fuel tank bottom so as to increase the fuel tank capacity.

A more preferable straddling type of vehicle according to the first and second invention may be constituted that the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank is made small to the limit of permitting the passage of the fuel pump, that the attaching portion of the fuel pump secured to the pump attaching opening is made small to the limit of permitting closure of the pump attaching opening, and that the attaching portion is provided on one end side of the pump axis of the fuel pump.

With the above constitution, sealing property is improved by downsizing the pump attaching opening of the fuel tank. At the same time, the fuel pump elongate in the direction of the pump axis can be easily inserted through the pump attaching opening on the other end side where the attaching portion is not provided.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

This invention will become more apparent with the following detailed explanation in reference to the attached drawings.

FIG. 1 is a sectional side view of an essential part of a fuel tank of a straddling type of vehicle.

FIG. 2 is a sectional plan view of the essential part of the fuel tank of the straddling type of vehicle.

FIG. 3 is a sectional front view of the essential part of the fuel tank of the straddling type of vehicle.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the essential part of the fuel tank of the straddling type of vehicle.

FIG. 5 is a plan view showing the direction of placing the fuel pump.

FIG. 6 is another plan view showing the direction of placing the fuel pump of another embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a side view of a fuel pump unit.

FIG. 8 is a bottom view of the fuel pump unit.

FIG. 9 is a right side view of FIG. 8.

FIG. 10 is a sectional plan view of the essential part of the fuel

tank in another embodiment of the straddling type of vehicle.

FIG. 11 is a sectional plan view of the essential part of the fuel tank in still another embodiment of the straddling type of vehicle.

FIGs. 12A - 12C are partial sectional side views showing attaching sequence of the fuel pump unit. FIG. 12A shows the state of the fuel pump unit before insertion into the pump attaching opening. FIG. 12B shows the state of the fuel pump unit in the middle of the insertion into the pump attaching opening. FIG. 12C shows the state of the fuel pump unit after the insertion into the pump attaching opening.

[Best Mode of Embodying the Invention]

Embodiments of the straddling type of vehicle according to the present invention will be described below; however, this invention is not limited to such embodiments. The embodiments show the most preferable forms of the invention and the terms in the present invention are not limited to that used herein.

FIG. 1 is a sectional side view of an essential part of a fuel tank of a straddling type of vehicle. FIG. 2 is a sectional plan view of the essential part of the fuel tank of the straddling type of vehicle. FIG. 3 is a sectional front view of the essential part of the fuel tank of the straddling type of vehicle. FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the essential part of the fuel tank of the straddling type of vehicle. FIG. 5 is a plan view showing the direction of placing the fuel pump. FIG. 6 is another plan view showing the direction of placing the fuel pump of another embodiment. FIG. 7 is a side view of a fuel pump unit. FIG. 8 is a bottom view of the fuel pump unit. FIG. 9 is a right side view of FIG. 8. In the embodiments, 'front,' 'rear,' 'left,' 'right,' 'up,' and 'down' are meant as seen from the rider. The symbols Fr denotes forward, Rr rearward, L leftward, and R rightward. Drawings are to be seen in the direction of the symbols.

In these embodiment, a motorcycle is shown as the straddling type of vehicle. In the motorcycle 1, a main frame 4 extends from the upper part to the obliquely lower rear part of a head pipe 3 of a vehicle body frame 2, with the rear part of the main frame 4 curving and extending downward. In this way, the main frame 4 as shown in

FIGs. 1 and 5 extends down rearward, through a downward curve portion 4a, to a rear arm pivot portion 4b. A pair of right and left seat rails 10 are connected firmly by welding the connecting portions 10a of the pair of right and left seat rails 10 to the main frame 4 at positions before the curve portion 4a of the main frame 4. A connection plate 13 interconnects the front portions of the paired right and left seat rails 10.

A down tube 6 extends obliquely rear downward from the lower part of the head pipe 3. The rear part of the down tube 6 further curves and extends rear downward to be connected to the lower part of the rear arm pivot portion 4b.

The forward portions of the head pipe 3, the main frame 4, and the down tube 6 are reinforced as they are interconnected with a reinforcing bracket 19. The main frame 4 and the down tube 6 are further reinforced as they are interconnected with a reinforcing member 11 behind the reinforcing bracket 19. An engine 20 is mounted in the space in the vehicle body frame 2 constituted as above, formed with the head pipe 3, the main frame 4, and the down tube 6. An intake pipe 21 is connected to a cylinder 20a of the engine 20. To the intake pipe 21 is attached a fuel injection valve 22 in upward directed attitude. Fuel is injected through the fuel injection valve 22 to supply mixture of air and fuel into the cylinder 20a.

A fuel tank 30 is placed in the front upper parts of the main frame 4 and the paired right and left seat rails 10. The fuel tank 30 straddles the vehicle body frame 2 in the vehicle width direction. A fuel pump unit 40 is provided inside the fuel tank 30. The fuel pump unit 40 includes a fuel pump 42 and a support plate 43. The fuel pump 42 is placed in the fuel tank 30 with its pump axis A directed nearly in the vehicle width direction. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, the fuel pump 42 is placed in the fuel tank 30 with its pump axis A directed in the vehicle width direction B. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 6, the direction may be slightly twisted from the vehicle width direction B, with a small tilt angle to the vehicle width direction B. Furthermore, the pump axis A of the fuel pump 42 may be in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle without being restricted with FIGs. 5 and 6.

The fuel tank 30 is made up of a bottom plate 31 and a tank body 32 secured by welding to the bottom plate 31 so as to cover the bottom plate 31. The bottom plate 31 is, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 4, formed with a tunnel-like recess section 31a straddling the main frame 4 constituting the vehicle body frame 2, and with a nearly horizontal surface portion 31b. The tunnel-like recess section 31a is formed only in the front half of the interior of the fuel tank 30, while the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b only in the rear half of the interior of the fuel tank 30.

Front attaching members 33 are secured by welding to the outside opposing surfaces 31c of the tunnel-like recess section 31a of the bottom plate 31. Each of the front attaching members 33 has an engaging portion 33a that is open forward to be attached by engagement with one of attaching brackets 14 secured by welding to the right and left sides of the main frame 4. An attaching plate 34 is secured by welding to the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b. The attaching plate 34 has a rearward extending attaching lug 34a. The attaching lug 34a is secured with a bolt 16 to an attaching bracket 15 of the paired right and left seat rails 10.

A pump attaching opening 31b1 is made in the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b. Cap nuts 35 are secured by welding to six positions around the pump attaching opening 31b1. A pump unit attaching base (fuel pump attaching portion) 41 is attached from under to the pump attaching opening 31b1. Bolts 36 are inserted from under to engage with the cap nuts 35 and tightened.

As for the fuel pump unit 40, as shown in FIGs. 7 to 9, the pump attaching portion 42a of the fuel pump 42 is secured to the support plate 43. The fuel pump 42 is placed so that its suction port 42b and delivery port 42c extend in mutually opposite directions along the pump axis A. A pump filter 44 is provided at the fore-end of the suction port 42b. A takeout pipe 42d is connected to the delivery port 42c. The takeout pipe 42d passes through the support plate 43. A fuel hose connecting portion 42e is formed to extend in the direction of the pump axis A at the fore-end of the takeout pipe 42d. A fuel hose 45 is connected to the fuel hose connecting portion 42e. The fuel hose 45 extends in the direction opposite the suction port 42b in the direction of the pump axis A of the

fuel pump 45. The fuel hose 45 curves from right to left above the main frame 4 and is connected from the left side to the fuel injection valve (injector) 22 located below the main frame 4.

As shown in FIGs. 1 and 3, the bottom of the fuel tank 30 is formed with the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b to which is attached the fuel pump 45 with the pump axis A nearly in the horizontal direction C. A control unit and others (not shown) are provided in the space between the tunnel-like recess section 31a and the main frame 4. The fuel pump 42 is placed behind the tunnel-like recess section 31a.

In this embodiment as shown in FIGs. 5 and 6, because the fuel pump 42 is placed in the fuel tank 30 with the pump axis A nearly in the vehicle width direction B, the height H of the fuel pump 42 including the suction port 42b and the delivery port 42c becomes low as shown in FIG. 1. The low height H of the fuel pump 42 makes it possible to place the fuel pump 42 in the fuel tank 30 without affecting shaping of the tank ceiling 32a formed with the tank body 32 by the fuel pump 42.

When fuel moves back and forth as the vehicle accelerates or decelerates, the fuel pump 42, if its pump axis A is directed in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, has little effect of restricting the fuel motion. However, as shown in FIGs. 5 and 6, placing the fuel pump with its pump axis A directed nearly in the vehicle width direction provides the effect of the pump itself restricting the fuel motion, so that fuel is sucked securely with the fuel pump 42.

The bottom of the fuel tank 30 is formed as shown in FIGs. 1 and 3 with the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b where the fuel pump 42 is placed with its pump axis A directed nearly in the horizontal direction C. As a result, the height H of the fuel pump 42 becomes low so that the fuel pump 42 can be placed in the fuel tank 30 without affecting shaping of the tank ceiling 32a. When the pump attaching opening 31b1 is to be made in the bottom plate 31 forming the fuel tank bottom wall, the opening can be punched easily in the die stroke direction while the bottom plate 31 is press formed, so that manufacture of the tank bottom wall is facilitated.

As shown in FIG. 1, because the main frame 4 constituting the vehicle body frame 2 extends obliquely rear downward to be lower toward the rear, and the fuel pump 42 is placed in the rear half of the interior of the fuel tank 30, fuel is securely sucked with the fuel pump 42 even if remaining amount in the fuel tank 30 is small.

Furthermore, because the tunnel-like recess section 31a of the fuel tank 30 straddling the main frame 4 constituting the vehicle body frame 2 is formed only in the front half in the fuel tank 30, and the fuel pump 42 is placed behind the tunnel-like recess section 31a, fuel is sucked securely with the fuel pump 42 even when remaining amount of fuel is small in the fuel tank 30. The position of the fuel pump 42 as shown in FIG. 1 is nearly above the curved portion 4a of the main frame 4. A space 80 is formed with the curved portion 4a below the bottom plate 31 of the fuel tank 30. The space 80 provides routing and connecting space for the fuel hose 45 protruding below the fuel pump.

As described above, the straddling type of vehicle according to this embodiment makes it possible to securely suck out fuel with the fuel pump 42 without being affected with changes in the fuel surface level due to acceleration, deceleration, and vehicle attitude, simplify constitution for attaching the fuel pump 42 without protrusion of the attaching portion out of the fuel tank 30, and facilitate attachment of the fuel pump 42 and routing of the fuel hose and the like.

Next, the straddling type of vehicle as another embodiment of the invention is described in reference to FIGs. 10, 11, and 12A to 12C. The same parts as those of the straddling type of vehicle described above in reference to FIGs. 1 to 9 are provided with the same symbols and detailed description is not repeated. In FIGS. 10 and 11, the shape of the pump unit attaching base 46 or 47 is shown in solid lines in order to make clear its shape. Actually, however, the pump unit attaching base 46 or 47 is attached below the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b of the fuel tank 30, and do not present on the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b.

In the straddling type of vehicle of this embodiment shown in FIG. 10, the pump attaching opening 31b2 of the fuel tank 30 is made

small to the limit of permitting insertion of the fuel pump unit 40. The shape and the size of the pump attaching opening 31b2 are made in an ellipse approximately identical with the support plate 43 of the pump unit 40.

On the other hand, the pump unit attaching base (fuel pump attaching portion) 46 for attaching the pump unit 40 from under the pump attaching opening 31b2 is made greater by one size than and in an ellipse similar to the pump attaching opening 31b2, and is made small to the limit of permitting closure of the pump attaching opening 31b2. The longitudinal directions of the pump attaching opening 31b2 and the pump unit attaching base 46 are in agreement with the pump axis A of the fuel pump unit 40.

Incidentally, the shape of the pump unit attaching opening 31b2 is not limited to the ellipse but may be changed to elongate holes such as a rectangle with four corners rounded, or an oval. Although the shape of the pump unit attaching opening 31b2 is preferably elongate and round in consideration of ease of passing the fuel pump unit 40 to be described later, it may be a true circle or oval, and may be small to the limit of permitting insertion of the fuel pump unit 40.

Here, as shown in FIG. 11, a pump attaching opening 31b3 of the fuel tank 30 may be made in an ellipse that is further smaller than the pump attaching opening 31b2 described above. In that case, a support plate 43 of nearly the same shape and size as the pump attaching opening 31b3 is provided on one end side of the pump axis A of the fuel pump unit 40. Furthermore, a pump unit attaching base (fuel pump attaching portion) 47 greater by one size than and similar in shape to the pump attaching opening 31b3 is provided on the reverse side of the support plate 43.

Sequence of attaching the above fuel pump unit 40 in the straddling type of vehicle of this embodiment shown in FIG. 11 is described below. First, as shown in FIG. 12A, the fuel pump unit 40 elongate in the direction of the pump axis A is inserted, from the other end side at which the pump unit attaching base 47 is not provided, into the pump attaching opening 31b3. Next, as shown in FIG. 12B, the pump unit 40, while it is being turned, is further inserted into the pump attaching opening 31b3. After that, as shown in FIG.

12C, the pump unit attaching base 47 is secured under the pump attaching opening 31b3.

The above embodiment of the straddle type of vehicle shown in FIGS. 10 or 11 makes it possible to improve sealing property by downsizing the pump attaching opening 31b2 or 31b3 of the fuel tank 30 to the limit of permitting insertion of the fuel pump unit 40.

Making the pump attaching opening 31b2 or 31b3 in the elongate hole shape facilitates insertion of the fuel pump unit 40 elongate in the direction of the pump axis A.

Downsizing the pump unit attaching base 46 or 47 secured to the pump attaching opening 31b2 or 31b3 makes it possible to increase the capacity of the fuel tank 30 by downsizing the area of the nearly horizontal surface portion 31b formed on the bottom of the fuel tank 30.

In addition to the above, like the straddling type of vehicle of the embodiment shown in FIG. 11, in case the pump unit attaching base 47 is made small to the limit of permitting closure of the pump attaching opening 31b3 and located on one end side of the pump axis A of the fuel pump unit 40, the pump unit 40 may be easily inserted from the other end side into the pump attaching opening 31b3.

[Industrial Applicability]

This invention may be applied to the straddling type of vehicle such as the motorcycle and motor-tricycle having a fuel tank with a built-in fuel pump to suck out and supply fuel through a fuel pump to an engine.